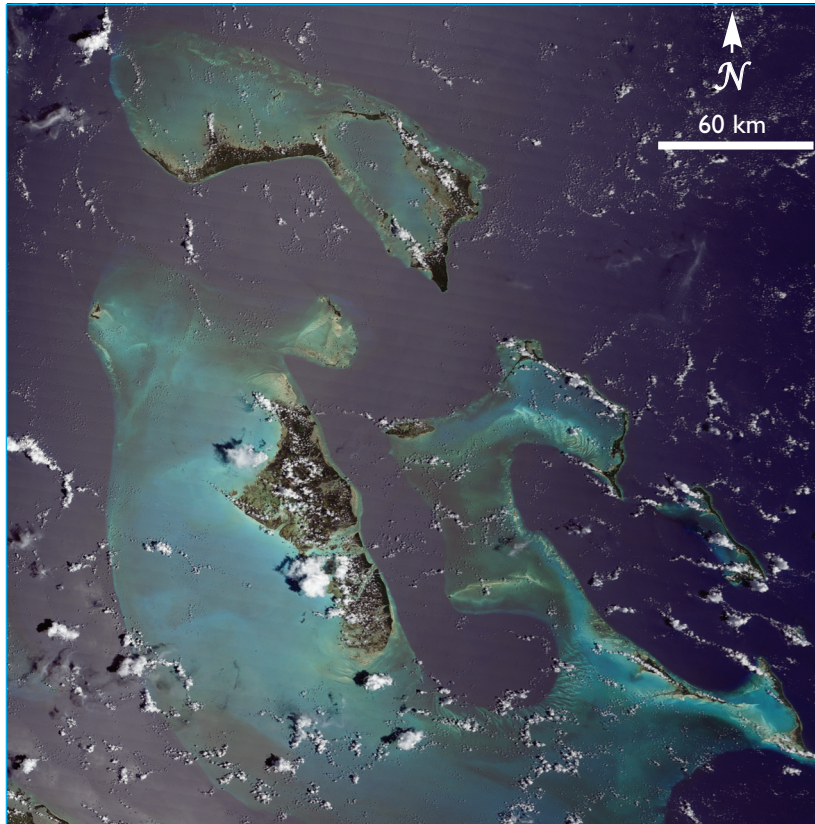
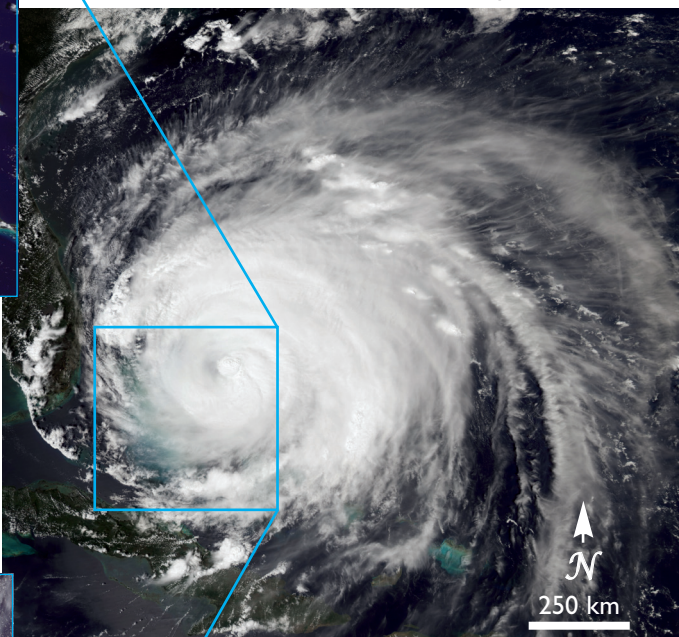


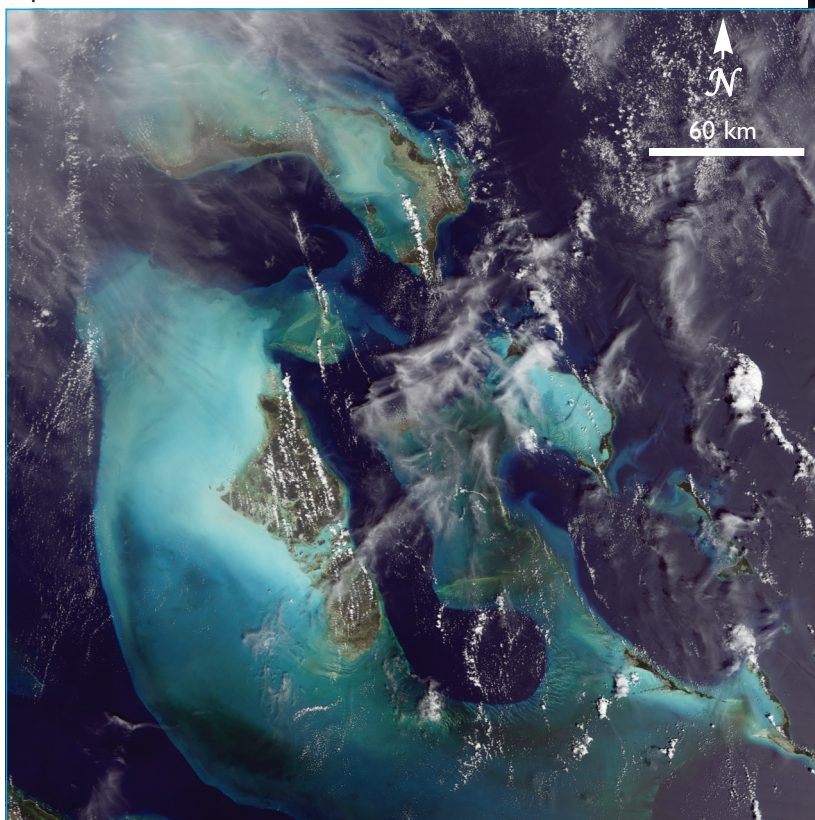
August 26, 2004



September 3, 2004



September 6, 2004



Carbonate platforms of the Bahamas Banks, before and after Hurricane Frances. Coral reefs and shallow carbonate platforms are the most productive regions for calcium carbonate in the ocean. Remote sensing can be used to observe the transport of these shallow water sediments to the deep ocean when the islands and banks are subjected to strong storm winds. The production of calcium carbonate and the dissolution of this mineral in the deep ocean are important processes in the marine carbon cycle. Increasing erosion rates and degradation of these tropical environments could be a consequence of sea level rise related to climate change. (Data for the Bahamas images from the MODIS instrument on the Terra satellite; data for the Hurricane Frances image from the MODIS instrument on the Aqua satellite.)